

# Massachusetts Organics Progress Report



**MassDEP**



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# SWMP Food Waste Reduction Goal Status



- 2020 Plan goal - divert additional 350,000 tons/year of food material from disposal
  - off of estimated 100,000 baseline estimate, so 450,000 tons total
- As of 2017 – total reported diversion at 280,000 tons
  - Increase of 180,000 tons

# Reducing Wasted Food – Progress to Date



- Overall 5% increase from 2016-2017
- 2017 – total reported diversion = 280,000 tons
  - Compost – 150,000 tons
  - AD – 88,000 tons
  - Donation – 26,000 tons
  - Other – 13,000 tons – processed into wastewater
  - Animal feed – 1,700 tons
- Does not include on-site systems
  - Estimated to be about 50,000 tons annually
- Believe underestimates amount going to animal feed

# Organics Infrastructure - Donation



- 26,000 tons
- Most through food banks – fairly steady
- Growth in food rescue – fresh & perishable foods
  - Continues steady increase – up 14% from 2016

# Organics Infrastructure - Collection



- Hauler collection customers – food materials
  - 2014 – 1,350
  - 2015 – 1,550
  - 2016 – 1,700
  - 2017 – 2,100
- Up 56% from 2014-2017 (750 customers)
- Will have 2018 numbers in early 2019
- As with cardboard, collection service necessary but not sufficient for compliance

# Organics Infrastructure – Compost & AD



- Currently 45 sites listed in Massachusetts
- Compost capacity about 150K TPY
- AD capacity for food materials (13 facilities total)
  - > 600,000 TPY total operational or under development
  - 400,000 TPY permitted capacity is operational
  - 120,000 TPY under construction
  - 120,000 TPY not yet permitted
- De-packaging operations
  - 7 currently accepting to some degree
  - 2 more under development

# Organics Grants & Loans



- **Recycling Loan Fund**
  - 14 organics loans for \$2.3 million since 2000
  - 5 more AD loans for \$2.3 million since 2013
- **Recycling Business Development Grants**
  - 7 grants for \$1.2 million to manage packaged food material
- **Sustainable Materials Recovery Program**
  - 46 grants totaling \$2.4 million since 2012
  - Includes facility development, drop-off equipment, carts, and technical assistance
- **Mass Clean Energy Center**
  - \$4.4 million in construction grants for facilities using food material as feedstock since 2012

# Recycling Works Assistance



- Delivered technical assistance to 46 businesses & institutions
- Handled 50 hotline calls on food waste
- Provided technical assistance to compost operators
  - Provided Tier 1 assistance to 9 operators and Tier 2 assistance to 3
  - Held on site compost operator's workshop
- Developed new web content
  - 2 new case studies, new source reduction guidance, new restaurant waste ban compliance guidance

# Waste Ban Compliance



- 39 NONs and 2 penalties issued so far for commercial organic materials
- Several more enforcement actions in process now
- Recently sent request for information letter to about 50 businesses to verify compliance
- Expect to do more targeted outreach & compliance assistance
- Continue to support through technical assistance

# Solid Waste Master Plan Development



- Draft Plan in 2019 and final in 2020
- Food material still the number one material in both residential and commercial trash
- Will be a continued focus in the 2030 Plan
- MassDEP Organics Action Plan – basis for current programs- available at <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/mx/orgplanf.pdf>

# For More Information



- John Fischer, MassDEP
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- 617-292-5632
- <https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban>